

CLAIMS

1. A method for enhancing exogenous epitope display on an MHC class I molecule, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

- 5 (a) inhibiting TAP activity in a cell; and
(b) expressing an epitope-fused MHC class I heavy chain or an epitope-fused β 2m in said cell.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the step of acid treatment.

- 10 3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said step of inhibiting TAP activity in a cell comprises the step of contacting said cell with a protein having a TAP inhibitory activity, or the step of introducing a vector encoding said protein into said cell.

- 15 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said protein having said TAP inhibitory activity is US6 or ICP47.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said vector is a mammalian cell-infecting virus vector.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said vector is a Sendai virus vector.

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7. A mammalian cell, wherein (i) expression of a TAP gene in said cell has been inhibited, said cell comprises a TAP inhibitor, or said cell bears a gene encoding said TAP inhibitor in an expressible way, and wherein (ii) said cell bears a gene encoding an epitope-fused MHC class I heavy chain or an epitope-fused- β 2m in an expressible way.

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8. A kit for displaying an epitope comprising: (i) a TAP inhibitor or a vector capable of expressing said inhibitor; and (ii) an epitope-fused MHC class I heavy chain or an epitope-fused β 2m, or a vector capable of expressing said epitope-fused MHC class I heavy chain or said epitope-fused β 2m.

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9. A vector capable of expressing both (i) and (ii):

- (i) a TAP inhibitor; and
(ii) an epitope-fused MHC class I heavy chain or an epitope-fused β 2m.